



News Release

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RICHMOND-AREA SCIENCE TEACHERS VISIT STATE LABORATORY TO LEARN ABOUT BIOSCIENCE CAREERS ~ Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services participates in BioTeach events ~

Richmond, VA – More than 20 Richmond-area science teachers toured the State Laboratory at the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS), Virginia Department of General Services, today as part of an initiative to promote interest in biosciences careers.

DCLS was one of six public and private laboratories across Virginia to participate in BioTeach, a series of free events intended to expose teachers to the business of bioscience. At DCLS, local K-12 and college science teachers learned about testing done at the State Laboratory for a wide range of human health, environmental and animal threats, including how the lab safely tests for infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and Ebola.

BioTeach was held as part of Virginia's first Science Festival Week, which runs October 4-11. The events, which included presentations, tours and socializing with lab scientists, were held in partnership with the Virginia Bio Foundation, a nonprofit organization created to connect bioscience companies with teachers and students to stimulate career interest in the bioSTEM field. The Virginia Department of Education's Office of Science and Health Education and Virginia's Director of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), also partnered to develop the events.

DCLS performs more than 7 million tests annually to identify genetic and metabolic disorders in newborn children and to detect infectious agents and toxic chemicals in humans, animals, the environment, the food we eat and the water we drink. Each year, DCLS trains more than 5,000 scientists, certifies nearly 100 laboratories, receives over 1 million samples, and prepares and distributes more than 300,000 test collection kits across the Commonwealth.

“We welcome the opportunity to highlight the important work being done at our lab, from screening all babies born in the Commonwealth for rare but deadly disorders, to testing our food and water for harmful contaminants,” said Richard F. Sliwoski, PE, Director of the Virginia Department of General Services. “It is imperative that we share this work with those who are in a position to directly influence students who could become the next generation of scientists.”

In addition to DCLS, the following bioscience companies held BioTeach events:

- Engineered BioPharmaceuticals, Danville
- HemoShear, Charlottesville
- LifeNet Health, Virginia Beach
- Novozymes Biologicals, Salem
- TECHLAB, Blacksburg

For more information about the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services, Virginia’s public health and environmental laboratory, go to www.DGS.virginia.gov.

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